

My State director served on the ground with him in Iraq during this time and attests to his solid leadership, having seen him operate during the most challenging, life-and-death conditions. She called him "the best in a unit of the bests," which is a testament to his leadership in the most difficult of conditions.

After his combat deployments to Iraq, he was promoted to sergeant major in 2008 and after completion of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy was assigned as the 8th Army Operations and Protection Sergeant Major in Yongsan, Korea.

Command Sergeant Major Cantrell was then competitively selected to serve as the battalion command sergeant major of 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment at Fort Myer and in 2012 was hand-selected as the brigade command sergeant major of the 3rd Infantry Regiment, "The Old Guard." This hallowed unit is America's oldest Active Duty infantry unit where only the best are selected to serve. The Old Guard is the official ceremonial unit of the Army, providing a guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and performing countless commemorations at Arlington National Cemetery, amongst other missions. Phillip's service at The Old Guard is of the highest caliber and reflects great credit upon his patriotism and abilities.

After serving as the most senior enlisted member of The Old Guard, Phillip was again competitively selected as an Army congressional fellow, an honor awarded to very few highly competitive servicemembers. That is where I really got the chance to know Phillip and see him in action when he served as a member of my staff for a year.

I have come to know Command Sergeant Major Cantrell well throughout the years as a valuable part of my team as an Army congressional fellow and can attest to his strength of character and profound leadership. It is a privilege to recognize him for his service to our State and Nation.

Following the year in my office, he was a congressional legislative liaison in the Army Senate Liaison Division, traveling around the world with congressional delegations.

Command Sergeant Major Cantrell holds a master's degree in legislative affairs from George Washington University and a bachelor's in human resource management from American Military University.

Because of Phillip's career and his unique leadership talents, it is my greatest honor to recognize his service. When visitors come to West Virginia, I jump at the chance to tell them we have fought in more wars, shed more blood, and lost more lives for the cause of freedom than most any State. We have always done the heavy lifting and never complained. We have mined the coal and forged the steel that built the guns, ships, and factories that have protected and continue to protect our country to this day.

I am so deeply proud of what West Virginians have accomplished and what they will continue to accomplish to protect the freedoms we hold dear. Command Sergeant Major Cantrell is a part of this legacy of excellence and an inspiration to all who will follow in his footsteps. I want to wish Phillip, his wife Sherry who has been with him every step of the way, along with his family and many friends, a heartfelt congratulations and warm wishes for future health and happiness.●

#### REMEMBERING MARK ALLEN GOUZD

● Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President I rise today to honor the life of a proud West Virginian and a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, my cousin, Mark Allen Gouzd.

Put simply, Mark embodied what it means to be a West Virginian, and the legacy he has left is such an important part of our heritage. There is no greater accomplishment than being in a position to give back to your community, and his work in mine safety and rescue truly benefited our home State in a profound way that undoubtedly saved countless lives.

After graduating from Mannington High School and later Fairmont State College, Mark began his career in land surveying and eventually began working with Federal Number 2 Mines. As an instructor for the Mine Rescue Program, Mark diligently prepared miners for the rigors of working underground. The teams he trained always went on to perform well in local, State, and even national competitions. For the last few years, Mark worked as an extension agent for West Virginia University as the manager of mine rescue and emergency response training at WVU's Doll's Run facility. He also served as the WVU Collegiate Mine Rescue Team trainer.

Having experienced a coal mining tragedy within our own family, Mark's work was especially admirable and came from a place of caring deeply for the people who keep our lights on, as well as their families. West Virginia suffered an immeasurable loss when 78 brave coal miners were killed in the Farmington No. 9 mine disaster 52 years ago. My dear uncle John Gouzd, one of my neighbors, and several high school classmates were in the mine that day. For days, we all sat around the company store waiting for updates about the fate of our loved ones. I will never forget the look on my mother's face when she heard the news that her younger brother had died in the explosion. Our community and the entire State came together to mourn the lives we lost. For Mark and me, that disaster fueled our passion for promoting changes that would help keep our miners safe and also ensure their families were taken care of.

I always consider myself fortunate to have grown up around such strong, inspiring people. Marion County and our

home State as a whole is just special that way. I always respected and admired Mark for the strong, passionate leader he was. As a lifelong member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Mannington, Mark served as a lector, Eucharistic minister, and choir member. The importance of faith and family was at the forefront of everything he set out to do, and it carried him through any hardships he faced.

He loved to work with his hands and found solace in gardening and working on his farm, and I know I join our entire family in remembering Mark as the hard-working, generous soul he was. His legacy lives on through our many loving memories of him as well as through the brave coal miners who learned from his lifesaving training.

What is most important is that he lived a full life, surrounded by his loved ones. Gayle and I extend our condolences to his beloved wife of nearly 36 years, Lora; their sons, Zachary and his wife Kelly, and Jeremy and his wife Allie; and his grandson Oliver; as well as his parents Joe and Carole; his sisters, Christina and her husband Jack, and Cynthia and her husband Steve; his brother-in-law Remy Petrucci; and his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Leonard and Judy Myers; in addition to his numerous nieces and nephews. Again, we extend our most sincere condolences from our family to theirs for our shared loss of this remarkable person. The unwavering love he had for our family, friends, and our home State will live on forever in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing him.●

#### REMEMBERING CASSIE JOHNSON

● Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of one of West Virginia's finest. Patrolwoman Cassie Johnson of the Charleston Police Department represented the very best of who we are as a statewide community, and she was taken from us far too soon on December 3, 2020, at the age of 28. Cassie was the daughter of an ironworker; she shared her mother's steely resolve and iron constitution.

Being a police officer in the city she loved and grew up in was a dream come true for Cassie. She was sworn in by Mayor Amy Goodwin in January of 2019 and had previously worked as a city humane officer. Cassie was born and raised in our State's capital. She could have gone anywhere, and she chose to stay and protect and serve the community that made her who she was.

She was truly a beautiful person in every way. Growing up, Cassie was an athlete and particularly loved softball. She would one day find that the Little League field she played on as a child was on her beat, and so she watched over it with great care so the current generation of children could play in safety. One of the first things she did when she was assigned to the field was to clean up the drug paraphernalia to make it a safe place for kids. Because